


BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2001-031-C - ORDER NO. 2001-150
FEBRUARY 21, 2001

IN RE: Petition of AllTel Communications, Inc. for)	
Arbitration Pursuant to Section 252 of the)	ORDER MODIFYING
Telecommunications Act of 1996 Respecting)	ARBITRATION PLAN
an Interconnection Agreement with BellSouth)	AND SCHEDULE
Telecommunications, Inc.)	



This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on a request of ALLTEL Communications, Inc. ("AllTel") to modify the arbitration scheduled adopted in Commission Order No. 2001-96, dated February 2, 2001, and entitled "Order Establishing Arbitration Plan and Schedule." The "Order Establishing the Arbitration Plan and Schedule" was issued after a Petition for Arbitration was filed by AllTel on January 11, 2001, seeking arbitration of an interconnection agreement between it and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth"). Pursuant to Section 252 (b)(4)(C) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Commission must issue its decision on all open issues in the arbitration proceeding no later than 9 months after the date on which the local exchange carrier received the request for negotiation or by May 4, 2001. Accordingly, the Commission in Order No. 2001-96 established an arbitration plan and schedule to assist the Commission in adhering to the timeframes set forth in the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

AllTel requests that the Commission modify the previously established schedule to allow it additional time in which to prefile its direct testimony in this matter. AllTel assents to a similar extension for BellSouth. The Commission, upon consideration of AllTel's request, finds adequate reason to grant the request and hereby grants AllTel's request to modify Order No. 2001-96 captioned "Order Establishing Arbitration Plan and Schedule."

Accordingly, Order No. 2001-96, dated February 2, 2001, captioned "Order Establishing Arbitration Plan and Schedule" is modified as follows¹:

(1) The Arbitration Hearing in this Docket shall begin at **11:00 A.M. on Monday, March 19, 2001**, in the Commission Hearing Room.

(2) The Commission hereby orders that twenty-five (25) copies of the testimony and exhibits of AllTel shall be prefiled on or before **February 22, 2001**. Further, twenty-five (25) copies of the testimony and exhibits of BellSouth shall be prefiled on or before **March 8, 2001**. AllTel shall prefile any rebuttal testimony and exhibits on or before **March 12, 2001**, and BellSouth shall prefile any surrebuttal testimony and exhibits on or before **March 14, 2001**. It should be noted that acceptance of surrebuttal testimony and exhibits is subject to the discretion of the Commission.

The parties shall serve the other parties with copies of all prefiled testimony and exhibits. **Service on the parties and the Commission shall be made by the close of business on the dates herein specified.** If actual service cannot be accomplished by

¹ The modifications herein relate only to the dates for filing direct testimony by AllTel and BellSouth. All other dates established by Order No. 2001-96 and the instructions concerning filing, number of copies to be filed, and service on other parties have not been modified from Order No. 2000-0041. However, those dates and instructions are repeated herein for emphasis to the parties.

hand-delivery on the dates indicated herein, service may be accomplished by facsimile transmission of the prefiled testimony and exhibits by the close of business on the dates specified with over-night delivery of the testimony and exhibits to follow.

All parties are reminded that all witnesses must be present during the hearing in this matter at the call of the Chairman, or the Commission may decline to allow the witnesses' testimony to be read into the record of the proceeding, and/or may decline to allow the witnesses' exhibits to be entered into the evidence of the case.

(3) Further, AllTel and BellSouth as well as any participants in this matter, may submit a non-binding list of questions to the Arbitrator (the Commission) on or before **March 12, 2001.**

Opening statements of the parties and any participants will be allowed at the beginning of the hearing. Closing statements of the parties and any participants will be allowed at the conclusion of the hearing.

Direct testimony and exhibits of the parties' witnesses shall be presented to the Arbitrator in a panel format, with all witnesses being sworn in concurrently. Examination of the witnesses shall be conducted by the Arbitrator or its designee. The examination may be directed to specific witnesses or to the entire panel of witnesses. Responses by other party to the examination may be allowed at the discretion of the Arbitrator.

Please note that any party requesting modification of this schedule must file a request for such modification with the Commission.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Chairman

ATTEST:



Executive Director

(SEAL)